

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A semiconductor switching element driving circuit comprises an overcurrent limiting circuit which instantaneously drops a voltage of a gate terminal of an IGBT when a main IGBT current becomes larger than a predetermined level i1. An overcurrent protection circuit which first decreases the main IGBT current at a first inclination when the main IGBT current becomes larger than the other level i2 lower than the i1 and then reduces the main IGBT current at a steep second inclination when it becomes smaller than another level i3.